



Informational Notes for EMDs and Local Officials

Bulletin #24 – January 31, 2003

Drought Condition Status (Jan. 23, 2003) – 73 Counties Impacted

The Drought Assessment Committee approved the following drought status information. If spring rains are not forthcoming, the Department of Natural Resources Drinking Water Division will be working closely with local communities on water rationing issues. The committee recognizes three phases – Advisory, Drought Alert, and the most serious Conservation.

- Phase 1 - Advisory phase (16 counties): Audrain, Boone, Clark, Cole, Laclede, Lewis, Marion, Miller, Moniteau, Monroe, Ralls, Randolph, Shelby, Taney, Webster, and Wright.
- Phase 2 - Drought Alert (25 Counties): Adair, Barry, Barton, Benton, Camden, Cedar, Chariton, Christian, Cooper, Dade, Dallas, Greene, Hickory, Howard, Jasper, Knox, Macon, Lawrence, McDonald, Morgan, Newton, Polk, Schuyler, Scotland, and Stone.
- Phase 3 - Conservation phase (32 counties): Andrew, Atchison, Bates, Buchanan, Caldwell, Carroll, Cass, Clay, Clinton, Daviess, DeKalb, Gentry, Grundy, Harrison, Henry, Holt, Jackson, Johnson, Lafayette, Linn, Livingston, Mercer, Nodaway, Pettis, Platte, Putnam, Ray, Saline, St. Clair, Sullivan, Vernon, and Worth.

CERT/Citizens Corp Grant Update

Alysia Beaudoin, formerly of AmeriCorps, has been contracted to manage the **CERT Grant program** for 2003. Alysia worked with the CERT training via AmeriCorps. I'm happy to have the opportunity to work as the CERT program manager at SEMA and I look forward to working with many Missouri communities.

As of the 28th of January, SEMA received 72 responses of interest from communities across the state. Friday, January 31, the CERT grant application form will be mailed out to all interested communities. There will be three CERT Train the Trainer courses offered by SEMA in the near future to qualify a sufficient amount of instructors. Please submit applications to Alysia via email or U.S. mail by COB, February 17th for consideration. You can email Alysia at abeaudoin@sema.state.mo.us.

Debbie Rathert, formerly with the Department of Mental Health and a member of the Disaster Recovery Partnership, has been contracted to manage the **Citizen Council Grant program**. REMEMBER: Communities interested in receiving a grant for their Citizen Council effort must send a Notice of Intent (NOI) in applying for funding. The NOI can be sent by email to Dante Gliniecki, dgliniecki@mail.state.mo.us, or Debbie Rathert, drathert@mail.state.mo.us, by COB, February 14th. Upon receipt of your NOI, you will be sent a brief, but standard, Application for Citizen Council funding that must be returned no later than February 21st. If you have already sent an NOI, you will automatically be sent an Application. Note: This grant is separate from the CERT grant.

Area Coordinator Meetings

Area B (Bob Bailey) will be 6-10 p.m., March 18 at the Days Inn in Kirksville.

Area D (Candy Adams) will be 10:30 a.m. -2 p.m., April 2 at the Thiebaud Center in Lamar

Area E (Mark Winkler) will be 11 a.m., February 7 in Sikeston.

A. J. Lehmen Named SEMA Exercise Officer

A. J. Lehmen has been promoted to Exercise Officer in Operations Branch. Lehmen was the former SEMA Area Coordinator for Troop H (Northwest Missouri) and Interim Area Coordinator for Troop G (South Central Missouri). As the new Exercise Officer, he will be working on an upcoming FEMA Region VII Earthquake Exercise in March, the Missouri National Guard Multi-Disasters Exercise in April, the federally graded 50-Mile Ingestion Pathway Exercise for the Callaway Nuclear Power Plant in April, and assisting with the Spring Conference in April.

Newest Issue of Homeland Defense Journal Now On-line

The Homeland Defense Journal. Vol. 2, Issue 2 is on-line www.homelanddefensejournal.com. This issue contains articles on: Command and Control, Transportation Grants, Vaccines, Business Opportunities, and Capitol Hill.

FEMA and USFA Post Preliminary Information For 2003 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the United States Fire Administration (USFA) have posted preliminary information related to the 2003 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program. USFA directed staff to begin work on providing to local fire departments, grant writing technical assistance for the 2003 Assistance to Firefighter grants. The USFA will place at <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/grants> the content needed to start the delivery of 2003 Assistance to Firefighters grant program. **The application period is not open at this time.** All current information will be available soon.

While the funding levels are not known at this time, starting the workshop delivery at this time is critical to achieving the 2003 program schedule goals in coming months. In the near future, USFA will post a schedule of grant writing workshops, and other technical grant writing information.

FEMA and Office of Homeland Security

FEMA Deputy Director Michael Brown has been nominated as first Undersecretary for the Directorate that FEMA will be a part of in the Department of Homeland Security. Brown stated that the President wants the FEMA name to continue because citizens associate FEMA with disaster response.

Brown stated that during the transition, he wants FEMA employees to continue to focus on disaster response. FEMA's mission is to "protect the nation, to respond to disasters and to help our fellow citizens."

Department of Homeland Security Update

Effective January 27, the Department of Homeland Security will be located at the Nebraska Avenue Center (NAC) in Northwest Washington, D. C. The NAC, a US Navy facility, is in the temporary flight restriction area over the Capital area. Other points of information include:

- Governor Tom Ridge was unanimously confirmed as the first Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) on January 24, 2003.
- A new DHS web page has been launched the address is www.dhs.gov. The page is designed by theme and audience rather than by directorates and agencies. Main theme links include Emergencies & Disasters, Travel & Transportation, Immigration & Borders, Research & Technology, and Threats & Protection.
- Job vacancies at DHS are listed on the federal government's Employment Information System: www.USAJOBS.opm.gov.

FEMA Smart Practices: Early Warning E-mail Network

Concerned business could not hear the county's emergency warning sirens, Nebraska's Buffalo County Emergency Management Office devised a simple notification solution – email! The County EMD developed a simple but reliable system to alert factory administrators to severe weather via e-mail. The EMD cuts-and-pastes severe weather information into e-mails and sent them to factory offices when there is a potential threat. Each factory has at least three people on the distribution list, ensuring that someone will be there to pass the message

along in the event of severe weather or any other type of threat. The email warning system has been expanded to include local businesses, schools, key officials and the general community. E-mail allows the emergency management office to take a pro-active approach to ensuring that people are warned about possible weather emergencies or other types of threats, if they cannot hear sirens or do not have NOAA radios.

Support Builds for Smallpox Compensation Fund

By Cristy Gallagher, Director

State of Missouri, Washington D.C. Office

The Bush Administration and key, bipartisan members of Congress last week indicated support for creating a fund to compensate those who suffer side effects from smallpox vaccinations. The indications came as Connecticut became the first state to implement the first smallpox vaccinations under the President's plan to protect against biological attack. The plan calls for state health departments to provide vaccinations for about 439,000 health care workers who would be designated to staff volunteer smallpox response teams. After these initial teams are vaccinated, the Administration proposes that states be responsible for vaccinating 10 million emergency responders, including fire and police personnel and other health workers. A mandatory vaccination program already is under way for certain military personnel. For every one million people receiving the smallpox vaccine, one to two deaths can be expected and an additional 14 to 52 life-threatening events can be expected, according to estimates from federal health officials.

Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist (R-Tenn.) said that policymakers should weigh creating such a fund. He noted that, in 1986, the government created a Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, but that program only compensates the families of children suffering from vaccine side effects. The homeland security law allows damages to be paid to those suffering side effects from the smallpox vaccine. However, the law requires that the injured person or their family prove negligence in administering the vaccine or in the making of the vaccine to obtain compensation.

Statewide Tornado Drill Set For March 11, 2003

The Statewide Tornado Drill will be conducted at 1:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 11. The four National Weather Service Offices will simultaneously broadcast a TOR warning over the EAS for the 1:30 p.m. drill. If there is inclement weather on the 11th, the NWS will notify us that they will be using the backup date - Thursday March 13. Severe Weather Awareness packets will be mailed the first week of February to give EMDs plenty of time to decide what information they want to use for their local campaign.

Exercises, Exercises, Exercises

Just like city and county emergency management agencies, SEMA participates in exercises. This spring, SEMA will participate in four exercises before the Spring Conference, April 20th. Those exercises are: March 4-5 Dress Rehearsal for the graded 50-mile ingestion pathway exercise with the Callaway Nuclear Power Plant; April 15-16 the Federally Graded exercise will be conducted; FEMA will conduct a regional earthquake exercise March 10-14 at both the State EOC and then staff will travel to the FEMA Region VII ROC; April 1-5, the Missouri National Guard will conduct a series of natural and manmade disaster exercises.

Troop E – Southeast Missouri –held their first organizational meeting for a joint SEMA, DNR and SEMO Oil Pollution Exercise on the Mississippi River. The exercise is tentatively set for early October, 2003.